

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS CERTAIN "NOMINA DUBIA" AND THUS TO VALIDATE THE SPECIFIC NAME "TUBERCULATUS" AS USED IN THE COMBINATION "ACIDASPIS TUBERCULATUS" HALL (J.W.) IN 1859 AND, BY SUPPRESSING THE GENERIC NAME "ACANTHALOMA" CONRAD, 1840, TO PROVIDE AN ASSURED BASIS FOR THE GENERIC NAME "LEONASPIS" RICHTER (R.) & RICHTER (E.), 1917 (CLASS TRILOBITA)

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(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 998)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers for the twofold purpose (a) of validating the specific name *tuberculatus* as used in the combination *Acidaspis tuberculatus* by Hall (J.W.) in 1859, and (b) to provide an assured basis for the use of the generic name *Leonaspis* Richter (R.) and Richter (E.), 1917 (Class Trilobita). The circumstances of this case are set out in the following paragraphs.

2. The generic name *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840 (: 205) was proposed for a new species of trilobite, the specimen of which consisted of that portion of the exoskeleton called the free cheek. No name was proposed for the species concerned. The description given by Conrad was as follows :—

This is a fragment apparently of the buckler of a most singular species ; it is elongated into a curved spine and has a row of spines along the front, and three spines on the opposite side of the prolongation. Not uncommon in the shaly limestone near Clarksville.

3. In the same paper (1840 : 205) Conrad proposed the new name *Acidaspis tuberculatus* for the cephalon of a trilobite from the same locality, and gave a description. It may be that this cephalon is a part of the same species as that described as *Acanthaloma*, but one cannot be sure, since the whereabouts of neither of Conrad's specimens is known.

4. In discussing fossils from New York State, Conrad (1841 : 31) listed *Acanthaloma*, and on a later page (1841 : 39) *Acidaspis tuberculatus* and *Acanthaloma spinosa* (new name), but without descriptions or reference to his earlier report. It is to be noted that the spelling "*Acanthaloma*" is used, rather than "*Acantholoma*". This variant, as Erroneous Subsequent Spelling possesses no status in nomenclature under the decisions taken by the Copenhagen Congress (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 45, Decision 73).

5. Castelnau (1843 : 23) proposed the name *Acantholoma* [sic] *conradi*, giving a reference to Conrad (1840 : 205) and a French translation of that author's description and mentioning the locality, but giving no figure.

6. R. and E. Richter (1952), in a review of this case, have claimed that Conrad's names of 1840 and 1841 have no validity, and that therefore Castelnau's proposal, though legitimate, has no validity either. It appears however, from a decision taken by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 160, 346) that a name published in the way in which Conrad published the name *Acantholoma* is available and that its type species is the first species placed in that genus by a subsequent author.

7. Hall (1859 : 368—370 ; 1861, Pl. 79, figs. 1—14), unaware of Castelnau's work, described *Acidaspis tuberculatus*, and placed in the synonymy of this species *Acidaspis tuberculatus* Conrad, 1840, *Acantholoma* [sic] Conrad, 1840, and *Acantholoma spinosa* Conrad, 1841. The specimens on which Hall based his description are preserved in the New York State Museum, together with additional material, all of which comes from the lower Devonian limestones in or near Clarksville. A re-description of this material is in press (Whittington, 1956).

8. Names published for nominal species without adequate description are a serious danger to stability in nomenclature and this danger is greatly increased when none of the type material is extant. It is very desirable therefore that *nomina dubia* of this kind should be deprived of their power of causing harm by being suppressed by the Commission under its Plenary Powers. In the present case these considerations apply to the following names, all of which may apply—though there can never be any certainty of this—to the species fully described by Hall in 1859 under the name *Acidaspis tuberculatus* :—(1) *tuberculatus* Conrad, 1840, as published in the combination *Acidaspis tuberculatus* ; (2) *spinosa* Conrad, 1841, as published in the combination *Acantholoma spinosa* ; (3) *conradi* Castelnau, 1843, as published in the combination *Acantholoma conradi*. All these names should, I recommend, be suppressed by the Commission under its Plenary Powers. The first should be suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy, thus clearing the way for the validation by the Commission of the name *tuberculatus* as used by Hall in 1859 in the combination *Acidaspis tuberculatus*. The second and third of the names recommended for suppression should be suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority only, thus preventing any valid subsequent use of these names in the genus concerned.

9. As indicated in paragraph 7 above, Hall did not use Conrad's generic name, and it has not been used subsequently—i.e. for about 100 years—by authors who have treated of this family. In 1917 (*Centralbl. Min. pal. Geol.* 1917 : 465) R. and E. Richter proposed the name *Leonaspsis* as the name for a subgenus of *Acidaspis* Murchison. This name has been used subsequently for the species-group to which *A. tuberculatus* Hall, 1859 belongs.

10. In 1949 (: 38, 151) Prantl and Přibyl proposed that the name *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840, be brought back into use for a genus of trilobites. R. and E. Richter (1952) claim that this revival would not promote stability in nomenclature, in that it would supersede the name *Leonaspis* that has been in use for 38 years. I am in agreement with this view.

11. Neither the genus *Leonaspis* Richter (R.) & Richter (E.), 1917, nor the genus *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840, is generally regarded as the type genus of a taxon of the family-group. The second of this genera has, however, been taken as the base for a subfamily name ACANTHALOMINAE by Prantl & Přibyl (1949, *Rozpr. Stát. Geol. Úst. Československé Rep.* 12 : 18, 35, 133, 151). Since the object of the present application is to secure the suppression of the name *Acanthaloma* Conrad under the Plenary Powers, it follows that similar action is desired in relation to the above family-group name. Since that suppression would follow automatically upon the suppression of the generic name upon which it is based all that is required is that the former name should be placed upon the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology*. I accordingly ask that this action should be taken by the International Commission.

12. In the light of the foregoing, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to suppress the under-mentioned names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—

(i) *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840 ;

(ii) *spinosa* Conrad, 1841, as published in the combination *Acantholoma spinosa* ;

(iii) *conradi* Castelnau, 1843, as published in the combination *Acantholoma conradi* ;

(b) to suppress the under-mentioned name for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy :—*tuberculatus* Conrad, 1840, as published in the combination *Acidaspis tuberculatus* ;

(c) to direct that the binomen *Acidaspis tuberculatus*, as published by Hall (J.W.) in 1859 (*Geol. Survey New York*, Pal. 3 : 368—370) be treated as being a scientific (binominal combination) then published for the first time and to validate the above name as so published ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Leonaspis* Richter (R.) & Richter (E.), 1917 (gender : feminine) (type species, by original designation : *Odontopleura leonardi* Barrande, 1846) ;

- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *leonardi* Barrande, 1846, as published in the combination *Acidaspis leonardi* (specific name of type species of *Leonaspis* Richter (R.) & Richter (E.), 1917) ;
 - (b) *tuberculatus* Hall, 1859, as published in the combination *Acidaspis tuberculatus*, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (1)(c) above ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a)(i) above ;
 - (b) The under-mentioned Erroneous Subsequent Spellings for *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840 :—
 - (i) *Acantholoma* Conrad, 1841 ;
 - (ii) *Acantholoma* Castelnau, 1843 ;
- (5) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) The names specified in (1)(a)(i) and (1)(a)(ii) above respectively, as there suppressed under the Plenary Powers ;
 - (b) *tuberculatus* Conrad, 1840, as published in the combination *Acidaspis tuberculatus*, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above.
- (6) to place the under-mentioned family group name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—ACANTHALOMINAE Prantl & Pibřyl, 1949 (type genus : *Acanthaloma* Conrad, 1840, a name proposed under (1)(a)(i) above to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers).

References

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**SUPPORT FOR DR. H. B. WHITTINGTON'S PROPOSAL TO
SUPPRESS THE GENERIC NAMES "ACANTHALOMA"
CONRAD, 1840, AND "ACANTHOLOMA" CONRAD,
1841, AND TO PLACE THE NAME "LEONASPIS"
R. & E. RICHTER, 1917, ON THE
"OFFICIAL LIST"**

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For Dr. Whittington's proposal see pp. 22—26 of the present volume)
(Letter dated 28th November 1955)

I gladly support this application since I share the views of H. B. Whittington and R. & E. Richter that the revival of *Acanthaloma* will serve no useful purpose, nor will it promote stability in nomenclature.

**SUPPORT FOR PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN POULSEN'S PROPOSAL
RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAME "PARADOXIDES"
BRONGNIART, 1822 (CLASS TRILOBITA)**

By **GUNNAR HENNINGSMOEN**
(*Paleontologisk Museum, Universitetet i Oslo, Norway*)
(**Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 623**)

(For the proposal submitted see pp. 3—13 of the present volume)
(Extract from a letter dated 13th October 1955)

I would like to inform you that I fully support Dr. Chr. Poulsen's proposal for preserving the name *Olenus*.

**SUPPORT FOR DR. ARKELL'S APPLICATION REGARDING THE
FAMILY-GROUP NAME "SEQUENZICERATIDAE" SPATH, 1924
(CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)**

By **M. K. HOWARTH**
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(**Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 931**)

(For the application submitted see 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 297—298)
(Letter dated 23rd April 1956)

I am writing to support Dr. Arkell's request that the family-group name SEQUENZICERATIDAE should be suppressed under the Plenary Powers. I have previously proposed and defined (1955, *Proc. Yorks. geol. Soc.* 30 : 166) the name ARIETICERATINAE (type genus : *Arieticeras* Seguenza, 1885) for a subfamily of the family HILDOCERATIDAE Hyatt, 1867.